

CONGRESS TO ACT  
ON FOOD PROBLEM

Continued from First Page.

at much lower prices than the receivers had anticipated getting.

Dry picked turkeys sold wholesale at 20 cents per pound and led turkeys at from 25 to 30 cents per pound, the butchers simply refusing to buy at higher prices. Although it was predicted that turkeys would retail at 40 and 45 cents per pound before the Thanksgiving centerpiece and fixings were purchased, the price in Washington Market last night was 35 and 38 cents per pound, and people looked at that.

City investigators from the bureau of foods and drugs of the Department of Health made the rounds of the city yesterday and reported last night that there were large quantities of 3-cent turkeys in the hands of the retailers late in the afternoon. It was simply a case, they explained, where women wouldn't pay the price for turkeys demanded and bought something else for the Thanksgiving Day dinner. The investigators declared that cold storage plants had been emptied of turkeys and that they will be well filled up again when the unsold turkeys find their way back into them again. In many cases, it was reported, retailers were obliged to sell at a loss in certain districts because Mrs. American Housewife couldn't be coaxed into paying a price that she considered exorbitant.

**JAMES E. WETZ**, so-called "egg king," is registering satisfaction for the camera because he has made \$1,000,000 out of eggs and the market conditions. Last year he tried it and got "stung."



The egg boycott got a boost yesterday following a conference which Mayor Cornelius F. Burns of Troy, president of the Conference of Mayors of New York State, and William P. "Cap" Hartigan, secretary of that organization, had with Joseph Hartigan, Commissioner of the Mayor's Bureau of Weights and Measures. Mayor Burns announced that he was heart and soul in favor of the egg boycott and of boycotts on other high priced foodstuffs and said that a request had been sent to Gov. Whitman to set next Wednesday as the beginning of a two week boycott on eggs.

**Calls for Campaigns.**  
"The simplest, most effective and direct way of accomplishing a breaking down of exorbitant prices," Mayor Burns said, "is through abstaining for a limited or indefinite time from the use of those articles of food on which prices are exorbitant. There should be a state and nation wide movement to this end. The state campaign can be launched through the New York State Conference of Mayors, which suggests the following agencies and interests to secure united and universal attention and efforts:

"The cooperation of the public press."  
"A proclamation by the Governor designating a time for beginning the campaign."

"Reading of the Governor's proclamation from the pulpits of all churches."  
"The issuing of a separate proclamation by all the Mayors of the State, reading of the same in the local papers of their respective cities, reading of the proclamation by teachers in all public, parochial and private schools, with explanation to the scholars of the spirit and object of the movement."

"Enlistment of the aid of housewives leagues, federated clubs and other women's organizations."  
"The aid of moving picture houses in permitting to be thrown upon screens a brief and intelligent slogan referring to the campaign."

**Labor's Support Asked.**  
"The support of all labor bodies by organized effort on their part throughout the State."

"Notice of the movement by business houses of all kinds by permitting all workers to cease activities from 11:55 A. M. to 12 M. on the first Monday of the campaign."

"The petitioning of Congressmen to take action indorsing this movement and the enlistment of the encouragement of the President so that from Washington may be sent broadcast throughout the country the suggestion that the Governors of all States and the Mayors of all cities may issue proclamations and take similar action to that of New York State and the movement made effective by the nation as a whole."

"The people can be masters of this situation and save themselves."  
While Mayor Burns was talking the Mayor's campaign over with Commissioner Hartigan he received a telegram from John McMillin of Troy, president of the New York State Hotel Men's Association, reading as follows:

"New York, Nov. 29.—The hotel men will cooperate with you in your movement."

This telegram was in reply to one asking the hotels to eliminate eggs from their menus while the two week boycott is on.

Secretary Capes said a committee of five Mayors will be named to arrange a conference of experts in Albany in December to decide upon a plan to be recommended to cities and to the Legislature for constructive action to remedy the high cost of living.

**Says Boycott is Popular.**  
Commissioner Hartigan said yesterday afternoon that he hasn't eaten a single egg since Tuesday morning, when he issued his call for a city boycott on eggs. "This is not a new movement," he said, "and I am confident that if the consumers hold out the price of eggs will come down to a reasonable figure."

The Commissioner added: "It will be well to bear in mind that we are aiming to reduce the price of cold storage eggs until they get down to 25 cents a dozen. That is said by experts to be a price that will give a reasonable profit when you take into consideration the price at which they were put in the spring."

The following quotations taken from the *Producers Price Current* shows how the prices of the cold storage variety of eggs have gone down since the Hartigan boycott started:

Wednesday, Tuesday.  
Refrigerator specials..... 25 1/2 26 1/2  
Refrigerator fines..... 24 1/4 25 1/4  
Refrigerator mediums..... 23 1/4 24 1/4  
Refrigerator lower grades..... 22 1/4 23 1/4  
Refrigerator State whites..... 21 1/2 22 1/2

**Potatoes Plentiful.**  
Commissioner Hartigan said that on the day before Thanksgiving a year ago 12,000 barrels of potatoes were received in Jersey City for the New York market and on Tuesday last a total of 18,000 barrels arrived.

"This indicates," he said, "that there is an increase in the visible supply for this city. Farmers have their corn to the ground and are sending potatoes in. In Wallabout Market to-day the average price of potatoes per barrel dropped to \$4.25. They had been \$5.25. The retail price is from 4 to 7 cents per pound; they ought to drop to from 3 to 7 cents per pound. If they don't come down perhaps potatoes will be included in the boycott."

Commissioner Hartigan is receiving letters by the score from all parts of the country complimenting him on his activities.

The Commissioner's inspectors between 5:30 A. M. and 2:30 P. M. yesterday enforced complaints against thirty-five retailers of turkeys for short weighing or misweighing their customers. The inspectors were instructed to watch out particularly for rapid mathematical calculations in which the mistake was always on the side of the retailer. Suits are to be started against the storekeeper on whose premises the alleged offense was committed to recover a penalty of \$100.

"We are not going to proceed under the criminal law," Mr. Hartigan explained, "because in the great majority of cases the short weighing or overweighing is done by an employee."

department to be unsatisfactory in results and disappointing to those who advocate a change in the State agricultural laws.

Charles F. Droste, a dealer in butter and eggs, of 177 Duane street, said that the problem of the high cost of living would be solved if the State would only educate the farmer how to produce more.

"When there is plenty of foodstuffs," he said, "the price goes down."  
"The price of butter and eggs is not especially abnormal now," Mr. Droste added. "The people who raise the cry about the high cost of living ought to know that. Three years ago egg prices were the same as to-day and there was no war. Eggs were then imported from Russia, Galicia, Holland, Austria, Germany and England."

The witness said the stock of eggs in cold storage is sufficient to last until February. He explained that 40,000 cases of eggs are coming to the New York market every week, whereas the weekly output for consumption is 55,000 cases, storage eggs being withdrawn from reserve holdings. He said the market price is made by current receipts.

Charles E. North, a member of the National Commission on Milk Standards, said the grading system of milk worked established has worked wonders and that there is plenty of advantage to consumer and producer.

The committee will not meet again until next Monday at 10 A. M.

## TURKEYS 5C. A POUND.

Public Fights for Cheap Birds in Pittsburgh.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Nov. 29.—Competition between hucksters and speculators handling turkeys on the Water street wharf, which resulted in the price of live birds being reduced to five cents a pound, caused police reserves to be called today to prevent customers in their eagerness to buy from sweeping the dealers into the Monongahela River.

The price cutting was caused by a dispute among the poultry handlers regarding what price should be asked. During the excitement one dealer sold turkeys without weighing them, demanding a certain sum for each bird. Many speculators who brought large shipments of turkeys to Pittsburgh believing they would be able to obtain record breaking prices for them left the city to-night suffering heavy financial losses because of the refusal of the public to pay the prices they demanded. In other parts of the city live turkeys to-day sold at from 25 to 28 cents a pound.

**FALL IN CHICAGO.**  
Turkeys and Eggs Take Sudden Drop.

CHICAGO, Nov. 29.—Turkeys and eggs took a sudden drop to-day when dealers found they were certain to have larger quantities of each on hand than had been expected. Inquiry among the retail dealers in different sections of the city revealed that housewives had turned to ducks and geese and chickens for their Thanksgiving dinners.

About midday wholesale dealers announced a drop of three cents a pound on turkeys and two cents a dozen on eggs. A little inquiry among retailers revealed that turkeys had dropped from 35 cents a pound to 25 cents. Eggs had gone down one cent a dozen in the majority of instances, prices ranging from 25 cents to 28 cents a dozen.

**David H. King, Jr., left \$2,450,804**  
David H. King, Jr., the pioneer in skyscraper construction, who died on April 20 last, left a net estate of \$2,450,804, according to an appraisal filed yesterday by John J. Lyons, Jeanne King, a daughter, received \$628,471; Dorothy King Flagg and Ruth King, daughters, and Van Tinseler C. King, son, a life interest in \$564,140 each.

## COOPERATIVE STORES RISKY.

Many Wrecked by Poor Management, Say U. S. Investigators.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—Cooperative stores in rural communities generally tend to lower prices, Agriculture Department experts have found in an extensive investigation of the subject, but poor management has resulted in their failure in many cases and has emphasized the necessity for careful business methods where cooperative selling is undertaken.

The witness said the investigation made public to-day, "has great possibilities in this country if the farmer can be made to understand the necessary relation of efficiency to financial success."

The investigators reported that in some instances "unusual savings and large dividends" had accrued from well managed concerns, but warned those contemplating organization of cooperative stores to first make sure of all the facts that would influence the success of such undertakings.

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## PARALYSIS FUND NOW \$70,000.

Committee Hopeful of Raising Quarter of a Million Soon.

Thanksgiving has not brought that \$250,000 found to the small victims of poliomyelitis for which the New York Committee on After Care of Infantile Paralysis cases began appealing a fortnight ago. But it has brought \$70,000 and the contributions are increasing every day. Yesterday brought checks and cash to the amount of \$10,000, the office at 165 Broadway, and so the committee, of which Robert W. de Forest is chairman and James H. Perkins treasurer, feels it has good cause to be thankful today, as well as very hopeful of reaching the \$250,000 mark before long.

"Everybody is showing a disposition to help," representatives of the committee said last night. "Many bankers and business men in lower New York have put up placards in their offices and stores, placards showing our appeal. We do wish the fund could be completed this week, for the fifty or more hospitals,

dispensaries, clinics, etc., must know at once whether the appeal is going to result in financing the care of the 5,000 children in New York crippled by the scourge."

"If we don't succeed the various agencies must go on making their scattered appeals. Some of the children will be cared for, but there will be no centralized direction and consequently the methods will not always be the best, and there will sometimes be duplication and some neglect. The purpose of the fund we are asking would be to knit these scattered threads into a strong whole."

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